GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1803
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
GROUP `A` SERVICE
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian P&T Accounts and Finance Service is faced with extinction in view of corporatisation of Department of Telecom Service;

(b) if so, whether any meeting was convened by Prime Minister`s Office to decide the fate of Indian Postal and Telecom finance Service Group `A` service;

(c) if so, the decision arrived at the meeting alongwith the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Officers of this service were neither allowed to avail their full attempts in Civil Services Examination nor allowed to switchover to other Group`A` service in subsequent attempts on the plea that all Group `A` Service are equal;

(e) if so, the Officers of this service are not being observed in other Group `A` service; and

(f) the other option are being considered for their continuance as an organised civil service?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir. With effect from 1.10.2000, with the corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services, the majority of the cadre posts in the Indian Posts & Telecom Accounts & Finance Service Group `A` stand transferred to the corporate entity, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, with the officers of the Service on deemed deputation.

(b) A meeting was convened by Prime Minister`s Office on issues pertaining to the Indian Posts & Telecom Accounts & Finance Service, Group `A` after the corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services.

(c) The principal areas that emerged in the meeting for exploration were
(i) Merging the Indian Posts & Telecom Accounts and Finance Service, Group `A`, with other Civil Services, and
(ii) Entrusting the work of service tax collection for the telecom sector to the officers of the Service. These are being explored.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some batches of officers were not allowed, as per the prevailing policy of the Government then, to switch over to any other Group `A` Service, or avail further attempts at the Civil Services Examination without first resigning.

(e) The issue is under reference with the cadre controlling authorities of other organised Group `A` Civil Services.

(f) Meaningful additional areas of work like pension, Provident Fund and checking of licence fees in Telecom sector have been allotted to DOT Cells which are supervised by this Service.